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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancelled)
2. (previously presented) An elastic shaft coupling

comprising:

a joint member formed with a hole;

a hollow shaft member formed of a steel pipe received in the joint member;

an elastic member interposed radially between the joint member and the hollow shaft member to flex and deform upon relative rotation between the joint member and the hollow shaft member;

stopper portions provided, respectively, on the joint member and the hollow shaft member to restrict the relative rotation therebetween within a predetermined amount; and

the stopper portions provided on said joint member each including a pair of stopper faces spaced from each other in a peripheral direction to form a gap therebetween,

the stopper portions provided on said hollow shaft member each being radially outwardly projected into said gap formed between said stopper faces of the corresponding stopper portion provided on said joint member,

said stopper portions on said hollow shaft member being formed by plastically processing an end of the hollow shaft member to be projected radially outwardly, and the stopper portions on said hollow shaft member being provided with ribs for reinforcement.

Claims 3-5 (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) An elastic shaft coupling according to Claim 2, wherein the outer diameter of the stopper portion on said hollow shaft member side is formed smaller than the outer diameter of the stopper portion on said joint member side.

7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) An elastic shaft coupling according to claim 2, wherein said pipe is of a low carbon steel

Claims 9-11 (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) An elastic shaft coupling comprising:

a joint member formed with a hole;
a hollow shaft member received in the joint member;
an elastic member interposed radially between the
joint member and the hollow shaft member to flex and deform
upon relative rotation between the joint member and the
hollow shaft member;

stopper portions provided, respectively, on the joint
member and the hollow shaft member to restrict the relative
rotation therebetween within a predetermined amount; and

the stopper portions provided on said joint member
each including a pair of stopper faces spaced from each
other in a peripheral direction to form a gap therebetween,

the stopper portions provided on said hollow shaft
member each being radially outwardly projected into said
gap formed between said stopper faces of the corresponding
stopper portion provided on said joint member,

said stopper portions on said hollow shaft member
being formed by flaring an end of the hollow shaft member
to be projected radially outwardly,

~~An elastic shaft coupling according to claim 10,~~
wherein the stopper portions on said hollow shaft member
are provided with ribs for reinforcement.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) An elastic shaft coupling
comprising:
a joint member formed with a hole;
a hollow shaft member received in the joint member;
an elastic member interposed radially between the
joint member and the hollow shaft member to flex and deform
upon relative rotation between the joint member and the
hollow shaft member;
stopper portions provided, respectively, on the joint
member and the hollow shaft member to restrict the relative
rotation therebetween within a predetermined amount; and
the stopper portions provided on said joint member
each including a pair of stopper faces spaced from each
other in a peripheral direction to form a gap therebetween,
the stopper portions provided on said hollow shaft
member each being radially outwardly projected into said
gap formed between said stopper faces of the corresponding
stopper portion provided on said joint member,
said stopper portions on said hollow shaft member
being formed by flaring an end of the hollow shaft member
to be projected radially outwardly,
~~An elastic shaft coupling according to claim 10,~~
wherein radially outermost points of contact of the

stopper portions on said hollow shaft member with the stopper faces on said joint member are disposed inwardly from respective centers of said stopper faces in a radial direction.

Claims 15-17 (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) An elastic shaft coupling comprising:
a joint member formed with a hole;
a hollow shaft member formed of a pipe received in the joint member, said pipe having an original wall thickness (t_2);
an elastic member interposed radially between the joint member and the hollow shaft member to flex and deform upon relative rotation between the joint member and the hollow shaft member;
stopper portions provided, respectively, on the joint member and the hollow shaft member to restrict the relative rotation therebetween within a predetermined amount; and
the stopper portions provided on said joint member each including a pair of stopper faces spaced from each other in a peripheral direction to form a gap therebetween,

the stopper portions provided on said hollow shaft member each being radially outwardly projected into said gap formed between said stopper faces of the corresponding stopper portion provided on said joint member,

said stopper portions on said hollow shaft member being formed by flaring an end of the hollow shaft member while applying axial pressure on said end to produce a root portion of the stopper portion on the hollow shaft member having an thickness (t_1) greater than the original wall thickness (t_2) of said hollow shaft member,

~~An elastic shaft coupling according to claim 17,~~
wherein the stopper portions on said hollow shaft member are provided with ribs for reinforcement.

19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) An elastic shaft coupling comprising:

a joint member formed with a hole;

a hollow shaft member formed of a pipe received in the joint member, said pipe having an original wall thickness (t_2);

an elastic member interposed radially between the joint member and the hollow shaft member to flex and deform

upon relative rotation between the joint member and the hollow shaft member;

stopper portions provided, respectively, on the joint member and the hollow shaft member to restrict the relative rotation therebetween within a predetermined amount; and

the stopper portions provided on said joint member each including a pair of stopper faces spaced from each other in a peripheral direction to form a gap therebetween,

the stopper portions provided on said hollow shaft member each being radially outwardly projected into said gap formed between said stopper faces of the corresponding stopper portion provided on said joint member,

said stopper portions on said hollow shaft member being formed by flaring an end of the hollow shaft member while applying axial pressure on said end to produce a root portion of the stopper portion on the hollow shaft member having an thickness (t_1) greater than the original wall thickness (t_2) of said hollow shaft member,

~~An elastic shaft coupling according to Claim 17,~~
wherein only portions of radially inward halves of the faces of the stopper portions on said joint member are brought into contact with the faces of the stopper portions on said hollow shaft member in accordance with said relative rotation.

21. (currently amended) An elastic shaft coupling according to claim 20 [[17]], wherein said pipe is of low carbon steel.

Claims 22-23 (cancelled)